

California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 2003

Volume 94 No. 3

\$2.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

Weekend Wildflower Walks 2:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday through May 11. 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA. 909/625-8767 x244.

May 2-4 Fri.-Sat.-Sun.

ART ALIVE at S.D. Museum of Art— The 22nd year for San Diego's tradition of celebrating art and flowers. More than 100 local designers transform the galleries into a festival of flowers. Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. 619/696-1934. Fee.

May 2-4 Fri.-Sun.

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. Sixth Annual "Alpine Sage & Songbirds Garden Tour, Community Commotion." 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Self-guided tour of seven awesome Alpine habitat gardens. Ticket \$10, is valid all three days. One visit per garden. **ALSO...** CHIRP's walk-thru butterfly enclosure opens May 1st, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. sunny days. Free. 619/445-7675.

May 3 Sat.

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale "Hats Off to Violets!" Sat. noon-7 p.m. Westerfield Mall at El Camino Real and Highway 78 in Carlsbad. Free.

May 3 Sat.

GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS
GARDEN TOUR Five gardens in La Mesa/Lemon Grove/El Cajon. Tickets sold day of the tour, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Perennial Adventure Nursery, 10548 Anaheim Dr., La Mesa. \$5 per garden.

May 3 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY of thousands of garden-related books open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Rm 105. 619/232-5762.

May 3 Sat.

TEMECULA VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY 9th Annual Rose and Blooming Art Show and Sale. "Country Rose Round-up." Includes seminars and youth craft activities. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Temecula Community Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd. Free.

May 3 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Epiphyllum (Orchid Cactus) 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. **OR** Floral Arranging for Beginners, and Easy to Grow Cut Flowers at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 3-4 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY 37th Annual Spring Show and Sale "Iris Eyes Are Smiling." Sat. 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Rm 101. Free.

May 3-4 Sat.-Sun.

SAN LUIS OBISBO BOTANICAL GARDEN 12th Annual Garden Festival "Splash of the Mediterranean." El Chorro Regional Park, California Highway 1, between San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. Free parking and shuttle at Cuesta College. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission \$5, children 12 and under free. Exhibitors welcome. 805/546-3501.

May 3-4 Sat.-Sun.

UCI ARBORETUM Spring Perennial Sale featuring unusual perennials from South Africa and around the globe. Experts on hand to answer questions as well as other participating nurseries. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Located south of the corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road on the UCI North Campus. 949/824-5833. Admission \$2.00, children under 12 free.

May 5 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2002-2003
Velma West and Elma Garcia of San Diego. Carlsbad Women's Club. 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 door. 760/749-9608.

May 6 Tues., May 13 Tues., & May 10 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM. Class and field trip for adults. "The Art of Close-up Flower Photography." To register, call 619/255-0203 or visit www.sdnhm.org/education. \$69 members, \$79 nonmembers.

May 10 Sat.

GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS
GARDEN TOUR Seven gardens in Poway/Escondido. Tickets sold day of the tour, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at 13003 Avenida La Valencia, Poway. \$5 per garden.

May 10 Sat.

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB Annual Spring Plant Market. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Washington Mutual Bank Patio, 7777 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Proceeds help support Landscape and Horticultural scholarships at four local colleges. 858/488-5521.

May 10 Sat.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB Annual Garden Walk "Off the Beaten Path." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Buy tickets at Mission Hills, Cedros Gardens, and Walter Andersens Nurseries, or call 619/543-9388. Advance tickets \$12, day of \$18.

Continued on page 68



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NUMBER 3

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want
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May 10 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on House Plants 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Garden Railroad: Choosing and Building Equipment 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 10 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly class "What's Ailing Your Garden?" Diagnosis for your plant diseases with Pat Nolan Plant Pathologist. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

May 10-18 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ZOO Garden Celebration "Seed Safari." Celebrate Spring with flowering plants, events, and features for plant aficionados. See www.sandiegozoo.org for more details.

May 10-11 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY Casa del Prado Courtyard Sale on Sat.-9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sunday-Annual Mother's Day Show. "Once Upon a Time." 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 12 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting "Gardening Out Front." Robert Smaus, former Garden Editor of the Los Angeles Times and author of *52 Weeks in the California Garden* is guest speaker. 6:30 p.m. Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.

May 17 Sat.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Ornamental Horticulture Field Site and the Water Conservation Garden, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon. 619/660-4262. Free.

May 17 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See May 3 for details.

May 17 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Water Gardening 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Great Garden Tools and Their Proper Uses 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 17-18 Sat.-Sun.

WEIDNERS' GARDENS Ladybug Festival. A play about good bugs and bad bugs by elementary schoolers. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thousands of ladybugs, a cupful for every child, and rock painting. 695 Normandy Rd., Encinitas. 760/436-2194 or visit www.weidners.com. Free.

May 17-18 Sat.-Sun.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS 19th Annual Garden Fair. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino. 818/784-5180. Free.

May 17-18 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY 32nd Annual Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 19 Mon.

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY. Monthly meeting. Election of new officers, review of show and discuss next year's program. 10 a.m. Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista. 760/433-4641.

May 18 Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Annual Plant Sale. Thousands of rare and unusual plants. Special highlight this year is fragrant plants. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. In the parking lot. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. 626/405-2100. Free.

May 21 Wed.

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Garden Tour. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Ten beautiful gardens in and around Bonita. Tickets \$20 includes lunch or \$15 tour only. Contact Marge Greer at 619/479-7177 or Dee Vawter at 619/479-7687.

May 22 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON Curator's Garden Walk: Rose Garden. 4:30-5:30 p.m. An after-hours stroll with Clair Martin III, the E.L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Garden. **Advanced reservations required** 626/405-2128. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

May 24 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Herbs 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Summer Rose Care 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

May 24-25 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP SHOW 25th Annual Bromeliad Plant Show and Sale. Includes competition, workshops on planting, mounting, and dividing. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 31 Sat.

GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS GARDEN TOUR Seven gardens in Fallbrook/Vista. Tickets sold day of the tour, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 2778 Los Alisos Lane North, Fallbrook or noon-3 p.m. at 920 Quails Trail Vista. \$5 per garden.

May 31 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Cactus & Succulents 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Rose Show instead of class. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 4 Wed. and 7 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Class. "Lilies and Their Relatives." Introduction to lilies, yuccas, agaves, onions, and other members of the lily family, as seen through slides, herbarium, and live material. Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday field trip including transportation. 619/255-0203 or www.sdnhm.org. Members \$59, nonmembers \$69.

June 7 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See May 3 for details.

June 7 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Soils & Irrigation Practices 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Wreath Making Class at 9:30 a.m., (followed by hands on seminar for \$50) at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 7-8 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale. Courtyard sale 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Open to the public. Sat. noon-5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 13-July 6

2003 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show "Commotion by the Ocean." Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Closed Mondays Over 50 garden displays, horticultural displays, floral design, lectures and demonstrations. www.sdfair.com or 858/793-5555.

June 14 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See May 3 for details.

June 14 Sat.

SOUTHWEST HERMEROCALLIS SOCIETY (Daylily) Annual Show and Sale, "Peace in Troubled Times," emphasizing the inner peace that comes through gardening and flowers. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 14 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Plant Propagation II Grafting & Air Layering 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Garden Railway: Landscaping your Railroad/Plants and/or Fruit Tasting: Taste Before You Choose What to Grow (one of these is fee based) 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 14 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly class "Cosmetic Surgery for Your Plants: Getting ready for fall pruning," with Cynthia Drake of Drake Consulting Landscape and Design. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

June 14-15 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SOCIETY Fuchsia Show and Sale. Sat. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. Free.

June 17 Tues.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING** 6:30 p.m. Social and dinner. \$11 for members, \$15 non-members, reservations required. 7:00 p.m. Meeting with Michael Bestwick speaking about "Horticulture & Plant Conservation in a Zoo Setting." Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 21 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN Workshop: Penjing, Chinese Miniature Landscape. Create a dish landscape. 9:00 a.m.-noon. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Registration: 626/405-2128. Members \$35, non-members \$45.

June 21 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Bromeliads & Tillandsias 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Plumeria: Care and Grafting 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

June 21 Sat.

GARDEN TOUR to benefit North County Community Resource Center Domestic Violence Shelter sponsored by Weidners' Gardens. Includes gardens of Pat Welsh and her daughter Francine Filanc. 9:30-5:00 p.m. \$15 in advance. Purchase tickets at Weidners' Gardens, online at www.weidners.com, or call 760/436-2194.

June 21-22 Sat.-Sun.

BOTANICAL ART CLUB SHOW Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 23 Mon.

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY. Monthly meeting. Installation of new officers. 10 a.m. Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista. Pauline, 760/433-4641.

June 25 Wed.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN Curator's Garden Walk: Japanese Garden. An after-hours stroll with David MacLaren. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Advanced reservations required 626/405-2128. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Members \$10 and non-members \$15.

June 28 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Phalaenopsis & Cattleya Orchids 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Special Guest Speaker, Author Kersten Oullet 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

**PLEASE NOTE: BE SURE TO CHECK
YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE AS YOU
ONLY RECEIVE ONE**

June 28-29 Sat.-Sun.

BEGONIA FESTIVAL at Weidners' Gardens. Peak bloom of tuberous begonias, includes refreshments, speakers, and free fertilizer fill-up (bring empty gallon jug) 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 695 Normandy Rd., Encinitas. 760/436-2194 or www.weidners.com. Free.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyonier Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times, and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY

Third Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours &

Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. General admission. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks.

Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided

Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation

Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$10 adults, \$8.50 seniors, \$7 students (12-18), under 12 and members free. Group rate (10+) \$8. First Thursday of each month free to all visitors. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for July-August issue is MAY 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

STAGHORN FERNS

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

WHEN MY WIFE AND I moved into our house about forty-eight years ago, a cousin of mine gave us a small staghorn fern pup as a housewarming gift. This one pup has turned into over fifty great staghorns over the years. One hanging from a tree grew so large that its weight caused it to fall to the ground. I called Quail Gardens to see if I could donate it to them. It took five men and a truck to get it up there and for years it was hanging from a tree outside the headquarters building.

The staghorn (*Platyserium*) comes from the tropics and in its natural state grows in the crotch of likely trees. Sterile fronds will grow around these roots to hold in detritus that falls from the tree into the root area. After getting established, the plant will send out fertile fronds that are shaped just like stag horns, hence the name. As the fertile fronds mature, spore areas ripen along the edges of the fronds. Also, from around the base of where the fronds emerge from the roots, little shoots called pups become established. This process repeats itself until the plant is quite large and can completely surround the trunk of the host tree.

The pups can be removed easily by gently pulling them away from the root area along with the root ball. This pup is then ready to mount on a back support that can be a redwood board of suitable size, a palm frond base, or against another tree trunk. Secure the fern to the base using copper wire. Leave enough room so that some peat moss or rough leaf mold can be inserted behind the sterile frond for the roots to grow into.

The fern does best when it is kept just moist and in shady locations. As the plant gets older, the sterile fronds will turn to a papery brown and the fertile frond gets brown also and falls down from the plant. This maturing process usually occurs in the autumn. When weather starts to warm, you will see new fronds as both types mature.

The next time you are in Balboa Park go into the Botanical Building that is near the fish ponds and look at the staghorns. There are several varieties and each shows variations in the frond size and shape. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

CHRISTMAS CACTUS . . .

The weather was a topic of conversation at a recent gardeners' gathering. The consensus was that it has been uncharacteristic and many plants were confused and blooming at different times of the year. There were several micro-climates represented, but everyone agreed that the Christmas cactus had been blooming but not the usual season. Some bloomed two times. There had been summer cold spells and winter hot spells, but the *Schlumbergera's* blooming is short-day controlled so that should not have made the difference. (The ideal is 16 hours of dark.) Guess we will all have to wait and see what the plants do next year.

Some trivia about Christmas cactus: It is a member of the cactus family. It used to be called *Zygocactus*, but all of the popular Christmas cactuses are *Schlumbergera buckleyi*. There are over two hundred named cultivars. It is called "Christmas cactus" because it blooms in the winter and many have beautiful red, long-lasting flowers—the red and green are very "Christmassy." It is native to southeast Brazil and became a popular house plant in the mid 1800s.

Spring is the time to make cuttings. Hope the weather has not changed that.

SEED GERMINATION . . .

Many plants that are native to areas where there are wild fires develop seed dormancy strategies that help the plant survive. Some plants cannot complete their reproductive process unless there are fires. Some seeds rest in the soil and will not germinate unless touched by a passing fire, others respond to smoke. Smoke coats the seeds, and rains release smoke-chemicals that break the dormancy.

BLACK FLOWERS . . .

Why? It must be the challenge. In some circles, black flowers are chic. Most of the so-called black flowers are not black, but a dark purple or magenta that can appear black in low light. These "black" flowers look rather dead and a few dark brown ones, especially roses, look like they are on their "last leg." Again, why? We purchase and grow flowers because of their beautiful colors and perfumes. They "lift our spirits" and brighten our lives.

PLANT NAMES . . .

The Missouri Botanical Garden, along with the New York Botanical Garden, Kew Botanical Garden (England), and specialists throughout the world are now embarked on a 10-year, \$100-million project to standardize the names of

species for a "World Plant Checklist." Plant Taxonomists estimate that there are about 250,000 to 425,000 unique plant species in the world but there are over one million names. For example: In 1753, Carolus Linnaeus found, identified, and named a grass *Poa annua*. Since then the same plant has been identified and named in other parts of the world over sixty times. The main object of this study is to identify every flower, fern, grass, moss, and tree in the world and to establish a database of the plants' names, ranges, synonyms, and if it is endangered. Then other information will be added.

In case you wonder, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-78) is the Swedish botanist and taxonomist who developed the binomial system used to identify plants. The scientific names of plants are given in two words (binomial), genera and species. Linnaeus classified plants largely on the basis of the number of stamens and pistils in a flower. His system is the basis of our system. The development of the electronic microscope and discovery of DNA have changed things. That is why there are so many name changes and moving plants to different families. When this project gets underway, look for many more changes.

RHAPSODY IN BROWNS—ALL ABOUT BROWN ROSES, PART I

BY FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

IF BEAUTY IS IN the eye of the beholder, then so-called brown roses are not everyone's cup of tea...er...I meant coffee. Speaking for myself, however, I find them fascinating, subtly striking, and usually—if perhaps not always—extremely beautiful. Although there are a great many rose colors and rose classes that I like, some of them conventionally beautiful, I have to confess that for me the run-of-the-mill old garden rose, hybrid tea, or floribunda has become somewhat clichéd. Perhaps that's why I've always been drawn to the more unusual, odd colors in roses.

You wouldn't think that the creation of brown roses was only made possible by the creation of the first "grey" rose, but that's how it all came about. In 1945, the great Sam McGredy created Grey Pearl (originally given the derisive name of "The Mouse" by its creator), a rose he disliked and dismissed, but which caught the attention of Gene Boerner of Jackson&Perkins. McGredy's despised floribunda, however, (along with Boerner's own 1948 creation, Lavender Pinocchio, itself the result of a cross between Grey Pearl and Pinocchio (a cool pink floribunda with touches of salmon-orange) became the spiritual, if not genetically literal, great granddaddy of all the brown and grey/lavender roses that were to come.

Any discussion of rose colors must begin with a major caveat almost always ignored by glossy, tempting rose photographs in catalogues: more than any other flowering plant, rose color is extremely variable. And more than any other color of rose, brown roses are subject to that variability. These changes can be governed by soil type, overall climate, differences in local weather, changes of season, and even variations in the amount or strength of sunlight a rose receives. Brown roses are greatly influenced by all of the above factors. For that reason, my comments must be taken in the context of my coastal climate. Inland you may see sharper contrasts in the seasonal changes of shading, or differences in performance. So don't feel a rose has been inaccurately described simply because it has a smoky maroon tone when you had expected burnt orange.

Let's talk color: The ARS has painted hybridizers of brown roses into a chromatic corner by providing only one color category—russet—for them to put an entire palette of color permutations into. Add to

that the fact that we've come to call this group "brown roses," and you have a perfect recipe for misunderstanding. Although we use the term "brown," the reality of this category is that there are several sub-groupings in terms of color.

Having grown about 98 percent of all the brown roses available in this country, I've concluded that they fall—not always neatly—into three general color categories: russet/red-browns that can range from oxblood to tobacco to copper; "warm" beige-tan/tawny golds that always carry a hint—sometimes well-hidden—of yellow; and "cool" beige-parchment tones that have a greyed or "ashen" shade due to an undertone—sometimes faint, sometimes obvious—of bluish pink or lavender.

Since mass-market, commercial viability is everything in mainstream rose production nowadays, brown roses are usually to be found in smaller, boutique-type nurseries (see sources, below). These nurseries tend to produce them as own-root plants but, for various genetic reasons, a few of them are less than vigorous on their own roots and should, in a perfect world, be grafted. I tend to compensate for that by growing them in containers.

In brown roses, color is everything—it's their *raison d'être*. Although a number of these roses happen to be attractive plants with potentially "perfect" bloom form, my comments will naturally tend to focus predominantly on color.

Russet/Red-Brown/Oxblood Tones

Brown Study

This is a relatively unknown but lovely floribunda. Due to its amazing color, it has climbed to the absolute the top of my list of personal favorites. I hadn't expected too much of it originally, so it was a big surprise when I first saw the smallish 2½–3-inch blooms—a subtle, deep lacquer red with a deep rust, almost oxblood overlay, and faint striping of "morocco leather"—red. Very, very attractive—and unique, even in the company of other brown roses. The plant is quite vigorous (unlike most brown roses) and can grow rather large for a floribunda. The leathery, olive green foliage isn't exceptionally attractive in itself, but makes an ideal background to blooms. Brown Study has also proven to be a bloom machine—my plant, now entering its third season, is almost continuously in bloom.

Brown Velvet

Until the advent of Hot Cocoa, Brown Velvet was the best-known brown rose—and with good reason. It has everything going for it: vigor, generous bloom production, beautiful, extremely glossy—if somewhat narrow—leaves that are a fresh, medium shade of peridot-olive green (a perfect complement to the blooms), and considerable disease resistance. Along with Hot Cocoa, Brown Velvet is probably the most disease-resistant of all brown roses. The moderately-scented, very double 4-inch blooms come in flushes. If there is a downside, it's that Brown Velvet's color is extremely variable (but always interesting). The plum-colored, smoky haze that overlays the Chinese red/burnt orange base color and provides the "velvet" of the name (and the "brown," too, for that matter) is a cool-weather phenomenon. In spring and autumn, Brown Velvet's blooms are the "typical" color seen in most photos. In the heat of summer, however, they can range from the cinnabar/red-orange mentioned above,



Brown Velvet

to an almost tobacco-copper shade similar to Edith Holden. What most pictures don't capture is the "silk crêpe" texture of the petals that makes even the midsummer color completely different from a "real" red-orange rose like Kanagem or Trumpeter. As a cut flower, Brown Velvet is quite long-lasting in cool seasons, but tends to last only a couple of days in midsummer.

Edith Holden (a.k.a. The Edwardian Lady)

The semidouble blooms of Edith Holden have an unusual and extraordinary color—even among brown roses—and are probably as close as any rose will ever get to a true brown. The striking copper penny-colored blooms, with glints of ochre, tobacco, and burnt orange, resemble a palomino's coat, and have the same

almost iridescent shimmer in bright sun. In cool weather, they darken somewhat and display a deeper veining or netting. Personally, I wish they carried a couple more rows of petals, but examples of semidoubles are not plentiful in modern roses, so they do serve as a refreshing structural contrast to most other rose blooms—brown or otherwise, and the bright ochre stamens complement the petal color perfectly. Although by no means a stingy bloomer, Edith Holden can't match the "bloom machine" production of such brown roses as Brown Velvet, Brown Study, and Hot Cocoa. In addition to the truly unique color, Edith Holden is a very vigorous grower as well: once established, it will turn into a big shrub—easily six feet or more—with a very vertical growth pattern that lends itself to training as a pillar or shortish climber. In fact, it's a mystery how it ever came to be classified as a floribunda. The shiny, dark green foliage is on the small side for a plant this size, as are the blooms—not usually more than 2½ to 3 inches wide.

Hot Cocoa

Given the incredible and carefully orchestrated hype of today's commercial rose industry, few people reading these lines will be ignorant of the name Hot Cocoa, one of the 2003 AARS winners. As a group, brown roses are largely unknown to the general public—even the general rose-growing public. Hot Cocoa is now poised to change all that. Even beyond its role as a popularizer of this genre, Hot Cocoa is a notable and praiseworthy rose. Bloom color is extremely variable: usually far less red—and far less *warm* a shade of red—than it appears on some photos. There's an oddly cool, translucent, smoky—almost taupe tone through which the base color "glows."

This is completely different than the plum/smoke haze that Brown Velvet develops in cool weather, which is clearly an overlay; here, it's integral—it's the difference between sunglasses and tinted contact lenses. Hot Cocoa's base color ranges from the streaky maroon of certain magnolia buds in cool weather to a shade of nectarine red in hot weather that is a less saturated version of the red found in Livin' Easy—one of Hot Cocoa's parents, and from which it derives some of its best qualities. If you're familiar with Livin' Easy, imagine one of its blossoms being dipped in very strong espresso coffee. Thanks to Livin' Easy (which should always have a place on any top ten list of carefree modern roses), Hot Cocoa has beautiful, shiny, extremely healthy foliage of a slightly deeper shade of green than its parents', and blooms of a similarly

cupped “camellia” shape. It has the same vigorous, almost aggressive, growth habit and, alas, thorns of a quantity and sharpness that put *Livin’ Easy*’s far from smooth canes to shame. Of those roses that display thorns of the “hypodermic needle type,” *Hot Cocoa* will never have more than a few rivals. As excellent a rose as *Hot Cocoa* is, it’s no substitute for other brown roses. I have sometimes described it as a bridge between the oxblood-russet category of browns (*Brown Study*, *Jocelyn*, *Brown Velvet*, *Victoriana*, and *Edith Holden*) and the beige/parchment category (*Julia’s Rose*, *Spiced Coffee*, *Tantarra*, and *Café Olé*) that always carries a hint of cool pink or lavender. It’s not a replacement for any of them.

Iced Tea (mini)

One of a handful of miniature roses in the brown range of tones. Personally, I wouldn’t necessarily classify it as a brown rose, but its color is unusual enough to exclude it from the apricot category. In my garden, *Iced Tea* produces flowers of bronzy peach with a coppery-rose reverse that are reminiscent of both *Singin’ in the Rain* and *Belle Époque* (Fryer, 1994). I don’t find it to be a bloom machine, but when it blooms, it is indeed very beautiful. It tends to be quite vertical in a miniature imitation of the *Edith Holden* growth pattern.

Jocelyn

This extraordinary rose is an extremely beautiful shade of mahogany/oxblood. It’s a somewhat brighter shade of red than *Brown Study* or *Brown Velvet*, and a deeper tone than *Victoriana*, but clearly belongs within the genre. Unlike any of them, however, *Jocelyn*’s blooms are very double, almost cabbage rose form (as opposed to the cupped, camellia-like blooms of *Brown Study* or the flared, wavy, blossoms of *Victoriana*). One of the biggest differences between *Jocelyn* and the other roses in this category is a considerable amount of blue in its color makeup—particularly as it ages. In conventional “red” roses like *Oklahoma* or *Mirandy*, this can be obnoxious; in *Jocelyn*, with its oxblood-russet coloration, it adds an almost plumlike shading that’s very attractive, but that can make an older bloom bear a greater resemblance to a rose like *Smoky* than to its fellow brown roses. Because of the high petal count, *Jocelyn*’s blooms may tend to ball in cool, damp weather. The plant isn’t a robust grower, and has viciously thorny stems that only relinquish first place for thorniness to *Hot Cocoa*. The shiny foliage is a deep and beautiful emerald, with an unusual, narrowly oval shape.

Sherry

I sadly admit that *Sherry* was one of my failures—not in the sense of staying alive or even thriving vegetatively, but in terms of its blooms. The color is usually described as being identical to its liquid namesake, but in my climate it proved to be a disappointment. The rather small, unusual blooms have a lot of petals that tend reflex strongly, arching downward to giving it the appearance of a pompom dahlia or zinnia. In color, they were and remained throughout the season the very clear, fire-engine red of geraniums, with no hint of amber or any other tone reminiscent of sherry. In color, they rather resembled a muted version of the floribunda, *Trumpeter*. *Sherry* is vigorous; a plentiful bloomer on a relatively compact plant, but apparently needs more summer heat than I can give it, since friends in hotter areas claim a somewhat sherrylike tint to the blooms.

Victoriana

This is an unusual and oddly beautiful floribunda. It’s essentially a bicolor: the petals are a russet/“ember-glow” red with silvery-white reverses. The warmth of the russet shade can change to a softly muted Chinese red in midsummer (not nearly so sharp as *Brown Velvet*) but is always striking since the blooms gradually change tone as they age. The bloom form, while double, seems almost poppylike, with wavy, flared petals.



Victoriana

Victoriana is not an especially vigorous rose, and it benefits from as much TLC as you can give it, but it’s

not a sickly plant either. The deep hemlock green foliage, while not particularly striking as such, does provide a very attractive contrast to the showy blossoms.

The following mail-order nurseries (in alphabetical order) are good, reliable sources for brown roses. I have used all them with considerable satisfaction.

Ashdown Roses

P.O. Box 308, Landrum, SC 29336

(864) 468-4900

<http://www.ashdownroses.com>

Michael's Premier Roses

9759 Elder Creek Road, Sacramento, CA 95829

(866) 352-7673

<http://www.michaelsrose.com>

Roses Unlimited (Currently, the only source for Brown Study)

363 N. Deer Wood Dr., Laurens, SC 29360

(864) 682-7673

<http://www.rosesunlimiteddownroot.com>

Sequoia Nursery

2519 East Noble, Visalia, CA 93292

(559) 732-0309

<http://www.sequoianursery.biz>

The Uncommon Rose

3333 SW Brooklane Dr., Corvallis, OR 97333

(541) 753-8871

<http://www.uncommongarden.com>

Vintage Gardens Antique Roses (Currently, the only source for Tom Brown)

2833 Old Gravenstein Hwy. So., Sebastopol, CA 95472

(707) 829-2035

<http://www.vintagegardens.com>

Fredrik Liljeblad has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He has gardened in climates as diverse as those of Sweden, England, Thailand, and Japan.

Photo Credit: Pages 73 and 74, copyrighted by Paul Barden. (<http://www.rdrop.com/~paul/main>) For a more extensive version of this subject, check out Fredrik Liljeblad's article at the following URL:

<http://www.rdrop.com/~paul/brownroses.html>

Part II of this article will appear in the July/August 2003 issue.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR

GETTY BY TWILIGHT

SATURDAY, 28 JUNE, 2003

Many people have journeyed to that splendid museum that sits so impressively on its hill looking like a modern-day Camelot. In fact, they have visited there more than once and always found a new treasure to enjoy or an old favorite to view again.

The gardens are another delight, so sculptured, so precise, and so overwhelmingly colorful. There are some people who believe that you needn't ever go inside the buildings—just wander around the grounds and marvel at the architecture. In case those incentives don't tempt you, here's yet another reason to join our coach tour on Saturday, June 28th.

We will stay until it gets dark and watch the millions of lights that bedeck the Los Angeles valley, truly a breathtaking sight. You can enjoy a star-studded dinner on the terrace as the lights come on.

Our timetable is quite leisurely; we'll depart from the parking lot at University Town Center at 11:00 A.M. and hopefully avoid that infamous traffic. Our return should be after the rush hour, we'll leave the Getty and those sparkling lights at 9:00 P.M. as the place closes. That will bring us back about 10:30 P.M. and you will find your car in a well-lighted lot that has a security patrol at work.

PRICE \$28.00 for members, \$33.00 nonmembers

GETTY BY TWILIGHT SATURDAY, 28 JUNE, 2003

- ☐ \$28.00 members (Who pay dues to SDFA)
- ☐ \$33.00 nonmembers

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Mail to San Diego Floral Association,
1650 El Prado #105,
San Diego CA 92101-1622

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University Town Center, between Macy's and tire company
11:00 A.M.

NEW PALMS IN THE BOTANICAL BUILDING

BY ROSALEEN COX

SINCE THE RENOVATION OF THE Botanical Building in Balboa Park a number of small palms have been planted. All are interesting because they are palms not usually found in the local landscape. They come from diverse parts of the world and represent genera with name changes over the years. Two have fan shaped leaves: *Cryosophila warscewiczii* and *Guihaia argyrata*, the other four have pinnate leaves.



Basselinia gracilis (1)

Just inside the westernmost door is *Basselinia gracilis*(1). *Basselinas* were originally known as *Kentias* and later as *Nephrocarpus* but were given the name *Basselinia* in 1873 in honor of Olivier Basserlin, a French poet. All *Basselinas* are native to island New Caledonia, a former French territory in the southwest Pacific. It has pinnate leaves and usually thin multiple trunks with a red to purple crownshaft. It will grow to five to six feet in Southern California. This specimen is about three and a half feet. It does not yet display the fully colored crownshaft.

Also near the center of the building but along the north wall just east of center is *Burretio kentia vieillardii*(3), also a native to New Caledonia, and also named for a native of

France, Eugene Vieillard, a botanist. It has been called *Cyphosperma* v. and *Kentia* v. It is a solitary, unarmed palm with an open crown of pinnate leaves and may grow to twenty-five feet in Southern California, this specimen is about four feet. It will develop a distinctly ringed trunk.

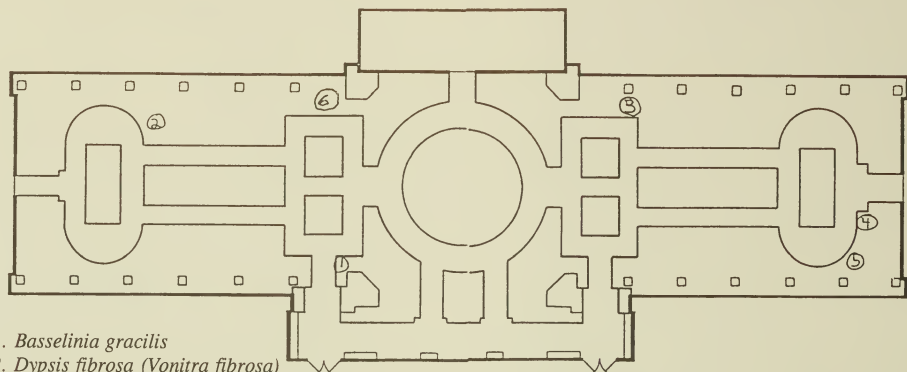
Two small palms have been added in the southeast corner. The first, *Cryosophila warscewiczii*(4), is native to the rain forests of Costa Rica and northern Panama. The palmate leaf is divided almost to its base. One easy means of identifying is the white underside of the leaves. On small trees such as this one only by turning over the leaf is the white noticeable. Its common name, rootspine palm, refers to another distinctive feature, long spine-like roots near the bottom of the trunk. These are in fact aerial roots that will harden and become like spines. It may grow to twenty feet here. This specimen is about four and a half feet.

Also in this area is *Dypsis baronii*(5). All *Dypsis* are endemic to Madagascar and generally are slender, small understorey plants in rain forests. *Dypsis baronii* previously called *Chrysalidocarpus* b. and *Neodypsis* b. named for Richard Baron, a plant collector. It usually has a multi-stemmed trunk with arching feathery leaves. Its Southern California height may reach ten feet, this specimen is a little over four feet.

One other small *Dypsis* is *Dypsis fibrosa*(2) located near the northern wall on the west end of the building. Formerly called *Vonitra* f. and *Dictyosperma* f. It usually



Burretio kentia vieillardii (3)



1. *Basselinia gracilis*
2. *Dypsis fibrosa* (*Vonitra fibrosa*)
3. *Burretio kentia vieillardii*
4. *Crysophila warscewiczii*
5. *Dypsis baronii*
6. *Guihaia argyrata*

Botanical Building, Balboa Park, San Diego

has a single trunk but may form a multistemmed clump. As its name suggests it has a fibrous trunk, and also has finely divided pinnate leaves. It has reached about five feet.

Perhaps the rarest is *Guihaia argyrata*(6) located on the north wall just west of center. The genus is named for the Chinese province where this palm is found. It is a clumping palm whose fan-shaped leaves are finely divided to the stem. These leaves are also green above and a light tan beneath. The latin epithet means silvery. Formerly it was known as *Trachycarpus a.* This palm grows only to four feet in Southern California.



Crysophila warscewiczii (4)

NOTE: Mature heights given are information from the Southern California Palm Society. □

Rosaleen Cox, a retired cost engineer, is the SDFA Librarian and a former docent at Quail Botanical Gardens.

Photographs by J. Coleman



1.



2.



3.



4.

EUCALYPTUS BARK DIFFERS

BY BETTY NEWTON

HERE ARE PHOTOS OF TREE BARK again. This time the bark is on four different eucalyptus trees. Some people want to see what is around them as clearly as possible. Some aspects of contemporary life we do not want to see at all. Learning to recognize big trees by the looks of their bark strikes me as a pleasant goal.

In 1983, I believe, the San Diego Union ran a photo I had taken of two eucalyptuses next to a school yard. A neighbor called the next week and remarked she had no idea eucalyptus could be so different. "I thought they were all alike," she said. Hooray, for pictures!

Now's your chance to test yourself. Number one is a big thick tree with shaggy ribbons of bark. The photo was taken north of the Barona Casino on Wildcat Canyon Road (north east of Lakeside). This tree was planted in rows in citrus orchards in Orange County at the turn of the century to protect the groves. Whether from wind or cold I don't know.

The sharply contrasting photo is of a eucalyptus in a peeling and dropping stage. This lasts six weeks. This is a particularly tall, slender tree. Ordinarily the trunks appear nude, either pink or white and smooth. The leaves smell lemony. You can see several planted on the north side of El Cajon Boulevard at about 30th Street. You should choose the limbs you want to keep early and cut away the others.

Use your imagination to visualize the red-brown, almost rosy bark with bright gray foliage on the next eucalyptus. It grows to about 40 feet. There has been one on the south side of the Quail Gardens parking lot in Encinitas. A striking, drought-resistant tree. Cut away some leaves to expose the handsome trunk.

Lastly I show you the base of a very common Southern California eucalyptus. The foliage comes in clouds, or big, gentle tufts. The bark on the 75-100-foot tree is blotchy. It is very drought resistant. You can see three growing in the triangle median in Alpine at the corner of Alpine Boulevard and Arnold Way. Plants have grown satisfactorily for over 15 years in a flower border about 12 feet from one of these trees. □

Betty Newton teaches for Grossmont Adult Education.

1. *Eucalyptus globulus*, blue gum 2. *Eucalyptus citriodora*, lemon-scented gum 3. *Eucalyptus chirena*, 4. *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, sugar gum

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt.

The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939

- ☐ \$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)
- ☐ \$18.00 members of SDFA (book, tax, mailing)
(\$18 or \$15 if picked up, tax included)

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions

- ☐ \$17.50 (book, tax, mailing)
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Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES,
UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen La Gamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry.

TO REPOT only if necessary.

TO TAKE the time to groom your violets by removing the lower row of leaves and all flower stems.

TO SEE that you have proper soil: light, porous, and with good drainage.

TO PUT all plants on wicks using a 3½ to 4 cup reservoir.

TO HAVE 12 to 14 hours of light daily.

TO HAVE proper spacing—provide room for good air circulation.

TO USE good fertilizer according to the instruction at each watering.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH tuberous begonias for signs of mildew; correct with dust and spray.

TO CHECK cane type begonias and cut back if needed.

TO WATCH for insects; wash off with water.

TO FINISH repotting where needed; use a light porous mixture.

TO FEED plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.

TO WATER as needed—keep moist but *not wet*.

TO CHECK tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed, add fresh soil. Stake any tall stems.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DEVELOP a watering schedule, but avoid

overwatering, especially the pines.

TO PRUNE all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.

TO SPRAY for insects as needed, using either a systemic or a mild surface insecticide.

TO SHAPE deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.

TO CONTROL any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.

TO FERTILIZE trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not overfeed the pines.

TO COMPLETE the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.

TO PLACE trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00AM to prevent sunburning.

TO ROTATE trees often to maintain proper shape.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouse can be fertilized year-round.

TO USE a water-soluble fertilizer—one high in acid, using only ½ the recommended strength on label.

TO CUT new offshoots to make new plants during the summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be ½ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

TO CHECK plants for scale. If needed treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains give same treatment in two weeks.

TO GIVE plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around plants.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants, as needed. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

TO FERTILIZE for growth and flowering. Allow the winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.

TO PROTECT the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.

TO CHECK any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from rest of plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.

TO REPOT those plants needing it; use a well-

draining mix. A good rule of thumb is to allow an inch between plant and the pot.

TO REPOT seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.

TO CHECK entire collection for any pests or disease; if so, treat at once to avoid an infestation.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME:

TO SLACK off watering as the weather warms in May. By the end of May, every three weeks should be sufficient except for your newly planted natives. An exception would be if you have a very fast-draining porous soil.

TO SPRAY for pests that threaten to overtake your garden. If your garden is healthy, natural predators will keep things in balance. This is a much better solution than spraying.

TO PLAN trips to native garden sites for ideas. It's not too late to visit Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden.

TO BE vigilant in keeping ants away from your plants as they carry (and farm) mealy bug and other scale insects as well as aphids.

TO AVOID watering during the hottest time of the day as it's very easy to burn the leaves. The sun on the water droplets causes intense heat.

CAMELLIAS

Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE a feeding program following the bloom cycle, feeding cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 Tbs. per gallon-sized plant or up to 2 cups per large plant in ground every 4-6 weeks through mid-August.

TO MULCH plants keeping mulch 2 or so inches away from plant trunk. Mulching helps keep the shallow roots cool and moist.

TO PRUNE out any unwanted new growth. Shape as desired and thin out center of plants.

TO SPRAY for insects as they appear, hose off aphids; using malathion for loopers and miticide for mites. Orthene can be used if preferred.

TO ESTABLISH and maintain a uniform watering program. Camellias are not "water hungry," but should never be allowed to go dry. Be sure to water well the day before feeding.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED with low nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10),

either dry or liquid.

TO SPRAY weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try a systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.

TO WATER when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.

TO PLANT smaller varieties and give regular care for growing.

TO BE SURE to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.

TO PINCH out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.

TO PUT out snail bait and watch for other pests.

TO REMOVE wilted flowers by cutting about $\frac{3}{4}$ " out from leaf unless you desire seed to form.

TO TAKE CARE in watering, do *NOT* allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but *NOT* wet.

TO GIVE plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.

TO STAKE long spindly growth.

TO PROTECT foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE a high-nitrogen fertilizer liquid or pellets twice a month.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale if necessary.

TO WATER thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning $\frac{1}{3}$ of the distance from the trunk to the tree's drip line and extending out beyond the drip line a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).

TO REMOVE grass and weeds from soil under a tree's canopy.

TO APPLY a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from the trunk to protect trees from crown rot. Complete thinning apples, pears, and stone fruit after "June drop."

TO REMOVE any suckers growing from rootstock.

TO WASH trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew, and pests like aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites.

TO SPRAY walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control codling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

FUCHSIAS

William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PINCH plants for shape and bushy growth.

TO CHANGE to 5-10-10 fertilizer to hasten maturity.

TO WATCH for insects and pests. Spray or use a systemic eradicator; use amount recommended by manufacturer or less. Do *NOT* use an oil spray.

TO BE SURE to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.

TO CONTROL snails, use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.

TO KEEP plants clean of debris and spent blooms.

TO TURN baskets regularly so they do not become one-sided.

TO WATCH plants on hot or windy days. Do *NOT* allow them to dry out; keep damp but *NOT* WET.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT basil, cilantro, and dill.

TO MAKE a cup of tea. Use fresh green spring herbs, comfrey, sage, mint.

TO HARVEST salad green herbs, dandelion, salad burnet, french sorrel, dill, basil.

TO FINISH any heavy pruning before the long, hot, dry summer gets strong.

TO FILL in any bare areas with summer growing herbs, basil, cayenne, parsley, valerian, feverfew.

TO MULCH with organic compost.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ALLOW cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. May be placed in vitamin B solution for a while before planting.

TO HAVE beds prepared for planting and

transplanting. Work in humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure.

TO WATCH for aphids. May use a systemic insecticide.

TO FEED spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.

TO KEEP watering all iris that are still blooming.

TO FEED Siberians after blooming with a balanced fertilizer to assure bloom for next year.

TO FEED Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.

TO FEED Japanese iris with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO OBSERVE the weather—be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight, use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass or overhead.

TO MAINTAIN pest control against red spider, mealy bugs, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.

TO AVOID sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot dry days; mist seedlings and small plants—mist in the morning and afternoon. Plants should be dry by nightfall.

TO REMEMBER that plants need good air circulation and proper light.

Culture of Different Genera:

Cymbidium: Light to partial shade to full sun, protect flowers from sunburn. Temperature 50°-70° optimum. Humidity 40-70%. Potting media; epiphyte-tree fern, fir bark, non-organic mixes or osmunda. New fertilizers have been developed and should be available.

Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola, and Hybrid: Light 2400-3600 foot candles. Temperature 69°-70° optimum. Media for potting: fir bark, tree fern, osmunda, gravel, perlite, or charcoal. Fertilizer depends on type of media used to grow your plants.

Phalaenopsis and Hybrid: Light 900-1000 foot candles. Shade to adjust and meet requirements. Temperature 65°-85°, humidity 50-75%; remember the higher the temperature, the more circulation of air is required.

Vanda, Vandopsis, Ascocentrum, Aerides, and Hybrid: Light 2000-3600 foot candles. Temperature 60°-70° humidity 49-75%. Potting media: tree fern, fir bark, charcoal, lava rock, or a combination of these. Fertilizer depends on media used. Vandas are voracious feeders and growers when right combination is used.

PELARGONIUMS

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat

dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage for the plants, both in containers and the landscape. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended strength. Use often enough to keep plants growing well. Long term pellets may be worked into the soil or potting mix.

TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.

TO SELECTIVELY prune and pinch ivies and zonals for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals and scented because this is their flowering season.

TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

TO ROTATE pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

TO ENJOY your plants at the peak of their season.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRACTICE the habit of breaking off the spent blooms of your roses as you enjoy a stroll through your rose garden. You are removing unwanted material and encouraging the plant to produce new growth at a lower part of the stem/cane.

TO CUT blooms at their peak and SHARE with friends and neighbors. Use sharp pruners and cut above a set of five leaflet leaves to encourage new growth for your next crop of blooms.

TO PROTECT the new basals that were beginning to grow from the bud union during the early bloom. Avoid letting these grow into a large candelabra. Remove side buds, allowing one bloom and then cut back to an eye emanating from a high five-leaflet. Treat this growth with care. It is your new wood for next year's blossoms.

TO CONTINUE to maintain a well-balanced feeding program and keep ahead of the mites and mildew by washing off your bushes in early morning.

TO MAINTAIN a vigilant watch for RUST on the undersides of your foliage! It is imperative that you maintain a clean area around bushes to control rust as there is no known control. It spreads quickly and removing infected materials and keeping other herbaceous plants away from your roses will best minimize the threat.

TO WATER your roses according to their needs and your location, usually at least twice a week. A well-defined basin in the soil at the drip line of each bush is ideal and also appropriate to scatter in fertilizer.

TO DISCARD varieties and bushes that fail in your garden and replace with new bushes. To avoid being disappointed with replacements, do thorough research by visiting gardens in your area to observe plants and blooms. Heavy petaled

blooms that produce for the warmer parts of the area will seldom open properly for the cooler coastal areas, and the colors achieved at the coast will be pale and washed out in the inner areas.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT warm-season crops which require warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumber, gourd, luffa, melons, and squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflower, tomatoes, and tender herbs.

TO PLANT pumpkins in late June for Halloween. Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.

TO APPLY nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when: corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; cucurbits when plants begin to produce runners; eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes when plants begin to bloom and again a month later; beans for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet of row, apply 1/3-1/2 cup of ammonium sulfate or 1/4-1/2 cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants, then irrigate thoroughly.

TO CHECK plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are a foot tall to control russet mites (older leaves die prematurely). Apply sulfur with a dust blower when wind is calm. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect them from cutworms.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: eggplant, sweet potato, tomato—African daisy (*Arctotis stoechadifolia*), celosia, centaurea, coreopsis, marigolds, nicotiana, petunia, salpiglossis, salvia, scabiosa, sunflower, and tithonia.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans, corn, cucumbers, endive, leaf lettuce, melons, okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips (in May), peppers, radish, squash (winter and summer), turnips—ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, four o'clocks, mignonette, morning glories, nasturtiums, portulaca, strawflowers, sweet alyssum, Virginia stock (*Malcomia maritima*), and zinnias.

GENERAL NOTES

NOW IS THE TIME

TO THANK all of our contributing authors and organizations. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. I apologize for any errors as we work out some cyberspace quirks in the editing. If your club has any changes in contact information or cultural notes, please let us know.

TO PARTICIPATE in any of the wonderful garden clubs in town. They all exist for the benefit of their members and the community. Best wishes to all, John Allen



AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CULTIVATED PALMS

Robert Lee Riffle & Paul Craft

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 528 pages, 929 color photos, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$49.95

When I started writing the article on palms in Balboa Park's Botanical Building (page 76) I had a number of books and articles to use as reference, each with a little information on some of the palms, sometimes information and no picture, sometimes a picture but little information. Then this new *Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms* arrived and it seems far and away the most comprehensive book now available on palms. It is outstanding for the number of genera/species included (890) and for the color photos (929) of the palms, some of which are close-ups of leaves, petioles, inflorescences, or fruit.

The authors are both residents of Florida. Paul Craft is Vice President of the International Palm Society and was founding president of the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society. Robert Lee Riffle, author of *The Tropical Look*, is a former nursery manager. Many photos were taken by them. The majority of which are from Florida and Australia. But other places are also represented including a number from Southern California: seven from unidentified spots in San Diego, five from Vista, two from Balboa Park, and one from Quail Botanical Gardens.

The descriptions include first: region of nativity, height, diameter of trunk, and size of leaves etc., followed by cultural requirements, such as cold hardiness, water needs, etc. Lastly tips on how to use in the landscape, whether the palm would make a good specimen plant, used as an accent or in clusters.

There are many unusual palms described. One example, *Medemia argun*, which was thought to be extinct but was found in the desert of Sudan in 1996 and now is being offered in some parts of the world. These palms were once cultivated in ancient Egypt. Another genera is *Geonoma*, mostly an understory palm similar in some respects to *Chamaedorea* and according to the authors

may lead to mislabeling in the nursery trade.

Other features include a pronunciation guide of botanical names, landscape lists by water usage, growth rate, size and color in new growth, or permanent color in leaves or crownshaft.

All in all, the book is ideal for the amateur or experienced gardeners but especially a resource for palm lovers.

Reviewed by R. Cox

GARDENS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA

Louisa Jones

Paris, Flammarion, 2002, 200 pages, 190 color photos, 9"x 11¼", softcover, \$29.95

Climate and location have made the French Riviera the playground of the rich and famous, who could and did build the ultimate in elegant homes and lavish gardens. Realizing that the weather and proximity of the sea were also beneficial to plants, they indulged in the luxury of growing fruit trees and colorful shrubs amidst cacti and succulents and bright flower beds, all framed by towering cypress, and/or palm trees, and bamboo. Most of the garden sites are fairly vertical, making terraces, stairways, and long vistas significant features in the Riviera landscape. The artistic backgrounds of the Riviera have inspired elements of drama in the wisteria draped arbors, water features and pools, and sculptured trees and shrubs. Nature also has done its part by creating huge sprawling specimens of cork oaks, olive trees, and cypress. Although most of the plants shown are familiar to Southern California gardeners, it is this cultural background that makes these landscapes so distinctive.

As a long time resident of the region, Jones shares her access to many private gardens with descriptive tours and personal anecdotes about the gardens' inhabitants, past and present. Echoes of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are identified by the author as she explores with the reader a wide range of spacious gardens. This includes gardens created by plant collectors of unlimited resources as well as modest corners sensitively designed for the maximum aesthetic and horticultural effect. As in the author's companion book on Provence, glorious color photos accompany the text.

The book concludes with a map and addresses of gardens that are open to visitors. Lists of nurseries and other addresses plus some hotels and restaurants in the area are included as well. For serious shoppers, the author provides information on suppliers of garden furniture and other items of decor. A Riviera plant list and lengthy bibliography complete the volume.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE PERFECT PLANT - for Every Site, Habitat and Garden Style

David Joyce with U.S. Plant Consultant John Easley
New York, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1998, 351 pages, 1,200 color photos, 6¼" x 11¾", hardcover, \$45

This thick volume with its 1,200 color photos, seems designed to be the ultimate garden resource for all places and people. It covers natural communities and the concept of landscaping according to plant selections based on a wide range of growing conditions. Its discussion of the diversity of our planet's surface conditions, from weather and soil to sun, shade, moisture, and altitude provide relevant information for gardeners everywhere, including Southern California; the local reader would just have to thumb through to find the parts that apply.

Special plant lists for various growing conditions cover just about everything from forests to deserts, coastal slopes included. The text is generously interspersed with photos featuring dense display of color. An A-Z list of 3,000 best plants fills the last part of the book. A casual survey found familiar tree, shrub, and plant genera, but often without mention of species popular in this area.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

CONSIDER THE LEAF: Foliage in Garden Design

Judy Glattstein

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 307 pages, 114 color photos, 4 line drawings, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$24.95

Foliage comes in all shapes, sizes, and colors and this book points the way to its potential for year-round garden beauty. Flowers fade and die, often leaving holes in the landscape, but leaves and branches hold their place and form. Whether, linear (as in grasses), lacy (as in ferns), or blocky (as in cannas), the accents of color and shape remain constant.

Published in humble textbook format, this is a book to delve into for inspiration and vicarious horticultural pleasure. The author's conversational style reflects her background as a popular garden lecturer, as well as an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden. Although her perspective is that of a four-season gardener, her plant suggestions appear to be applicable anywhere.

When it comes to foliage for color, the author describes everything from yellow-gold to red-purple. She also is enthusiastic about combining gold and silver in proximity and the use of variegated leaves. The advantage of colorful edibles is illustrated in bright photos of ornamental cabbage, ruby-red chard, and bananas. Both Latin and common names are given for all plants, as the author takes time out in the beginning to explain the importance of the botanical names for clarity and their frequently descriptive nature.

Hedges and fedges (fences covered with vines) can rise above their usual ho-hum status with the use of colorful foliage. For those who can't bear to put down their clippers, there is also much discussion of topiaries, labyrinths, mazes, parterres, and knot gardens. Gardeners who might never consider such projects could be swayed by the examples in this attractive book.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

INTRODUCING ORCHIDS

Wilma and Brian Rittershausen

North Pomfret, Vermont, Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2002, 128 pages, 90 color photos, 9½ x 10", hardcover, \$27.50

Large color photos used as graphic art add beauty to the straight-forward content of this handsome book. Written by second generation orchid growers in Devonshire, England, it "introduces orchids" with a strong sense of their subject's irresistible elegance. Recognizing that many orchids serve as a kind of long-lived flower arrangement that is replaced once the blooms have faded away, the authors encourage either growing on the products of this "disposal market" or visiting an orchid nursery and cultivating varieties will give more lasting pleasure.

Many close-up views of orchids render them as abstract images at the beginning of the book, but the following text is totally specific. In describing the diversity of orchid species, Latin names are defined by plant characteristics, such as air plants (epiphytes), rock face growers (lithophytes), and single stem (monopodial). Individual hybrids are organized into one large section of those that are easiest to grow and two smaller ones for those that are "fairly easy" and/or "need care." Each has a page or two to itself for a complete description of its history and cultivation, with one or two large unframed photo images to illustrate the intricate form color of these amazing blooms.

Cultivation is covered in the last part of the book, with complete information regarding temperature, humidity, and ventilation as well as feeding and propagation. The book ends with a page of troubleshooting advice.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones



PLANTS THAT WELCOME WILDLIFE AND FIGHT FIRES®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

IT WAS VERY, VERY SCARY.

The crest of the slope behind our house wore a crown of fire. My arms were full of memories—photographs and special books and other things one can certainly live without, but not easily. Moments before, the firefighter had suggested that I might like to “. . . put a few things in the car, just in case.” So there I was, staggering under my precious load, hurriedly glancing up to see the flames and then—the plane!

Now I can laugh about missing a great “photo op”—the thrilling sight of the plane as it swooped above the fire and released its payload of fire retardant in just the right spot. Meanwhile, on the ground, firefighters swarmed up the hill with those huge hoses of theirs, and soon the fire was under control (and so was I).

And, all of my “planted” plants—rooted to the spot as they were—escaped harm. I like to think that most of the wild creatures either flew, tunneled under, or successfully fled the fire.

The Lakeside Fire Department plus the five or six other departments had performed magnificently, and when my Significant Other and I thanked them, they thanked us back!

It seems that we had made life a lot easier for them by removing much of the brush, some of it blatantly dead, that had profusely covered the slope when we first moved in. I must admit that I had been reluctant to tear out so much plant material, being a plant lover and wildlife connoisseur. However, after wrangling with the Significant Other about leaving enough cover for wild animals to survive, a solution popped up—just like a California poppy after a rain.

The center of our land behind the house would be left clear, with only some huge, interesting rocks and perhaps a few very drought-tolerant plants positioned near them. Rocks help to protect plants from extreme heat and cold, plus they add a touch of drama to the yard. Then, after a little effort on our part, the borders of the cleared area would come alive with fire resistant plants, which provide cover and sustenance to certain wild creatures, but definitely not others. (The “others” being gluttonous gophers, scurrilous squirrels, rascally rabbits, and depraved deer).

Everybody else would be welcome, even snakes.

FIRE-FIGHTING PLANTS

Before you start your landscaping, be aware that

although some plants are fire retardant, none are fireproof! Make sure not to plant highly flammables such as cedar (*Cedrus* spp.), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), juniper (*Juniperus* spp.), and blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).

Following is a partial list of fire-retardant plants that you might place in your unfriendly-to-fire, friendly-to-wildlife yard:

TREE-SIZE

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) - Evergreen, handsome all year around. White flowers lead to great-looking red berries in the fall-winter season. Use the berries to make a nice wreath if the birds let you have any.

Citrus (*Citrus* spp.) - Evergreen, good looks plus fruit for your tummy; what a combination. Plus, citrus is a larval-food plant for the caterpillars that become gorgeous giant swallowtail butterflies. Fuzzy sphinx moths will visit the flowers, not your clothes.

Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) - Beautiful and stately, this tree is a tremendous boon to wildlife, offering shelter and food to many species.

Pineapple guava (*Feijoa sellowiana*) - This small tree has edible flowers to use in a salad, but be nice; leave some nectar-rich blossoms for the hummingbird family.

Agaves (*Agave* spp.) - These succulents can get very large. But large or small, these dramatic plants offer flowers that provide nectar to interested parties.

SHRUB-SIZE

Lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) - Large evergreen shrub with small pink flowers that become tart berries sought by wildlife and gardeners desperately seeking an ingredient to make a cool summer potion.

Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) - Darkish green leaves and berries the color of the very exciting coffee bean.

Rockrose (*Cistus* spp.) - Smallish, drought-tolerant evergreen with flowers of pink, purple, white, and shades in between. A soil stabilizer.

Prostrate rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* ‘Prostratus’) - Garden thugs such as bunnies and deer hate it; you will love it since you can use it on chicken and hills to prevent erosion. The tiny blue flowers attract hummingbirds and beneficials; birds eat the seed. Do not, however, plant the upright kind that gets really tall.

Also, be sure to clear out dead wood (co-workers and certain family members may be excepted).

Lilac verbena (*Verbena lilacina*) - Herbaceous subshrub whose purple flowers attract butterflies. It blooms over a long season and is pretty darn tough.

Lavender (*Lavandula* sp.) - Drought-tolerant shrub, which will delight your nose and seduce nectar-lovers.



Rhus integrifolia
lemonade berry

SMALLER THAN A BREADBASKET-SIZE

California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) - Annual with an impossible-to-spell-correctly genus name. (I always have to look it up.) However, good spellers such as bees love the golden flowers, and birds covet the seeds.

Aloes (*Aloe* spp.) - Great succulents, many small but some larger, which help you save on the water bill. You say good buy; I say aloe.

California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) - Silvery green leaves and red-orange nectar-filled flowers make this native a winner.

Woolly yarrow (*Achillea tomentosa*) - Butterflies will visit when this perennial blooms.

Creeping sage (*Salvia sonomensis*) - This perennial forms a low mat of glaucous-green leaves. Blue-violet flowers attract nectar nosers.

Purple lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*) - This wonderful butterfly-attracting plant also does an excellent job of keeping your slope in its place.

Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria californica*) - Toothy, shiny, rich green leaves; nice white flowers; tasty berries to be eaten by anyone who gets there first.

Monkey flower (*Mimulus* spp.) - Outstanding native perennial with lovely flowers; easy to care for, and easy to care about. Doesn't attract bunny rabbits. Apparently repels monkeys since I never see any in my yard.

Society garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*) - Clumps of thin straplike leaves with lavender flowers. Plant-nibblers

such as deer don't eat it, because it smells bad if you get really close. So don't.

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.) - This perennial is golden. Nectar attracts butterflies and beneficials.

Purple trailing ice plant (*Lampranthus spectabilis*) - Moist gray-green carpets with gleaming purple blooms that are blazing right now outside my house. [February] Not a big wildlife attracter, but sometimes butterflies visit the blindingly purple flowers. If you come to visit, wear sunglasses.

Trailing South African daisy (*Osteospermum fruticosum*) - Ground cover with daisylike flowers that attract small nectar seekers.

FIRE SALE?

When shopping for exotics, remember to patronize some of the fine local ma-and-pa nurseries in our area.

However, it's harder to find an establishment that specializes in California natives. One that comes to mind is Las Pilitas Nursery (760-749-5930) in Escondido. Las Pilitas says that it is okay to plant natives any time. For summer and fall planting, you should treat the newly planted to regular watering during the summer and fall months of the first year.

Another source is the California Native Plant Society, San Diego chapter (619-685-7321), which usually hosts a Spring Plant Sale.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

A lot has been written about how to protect your property from fire. Brochures abound, and there is probably even something about fire prevention on the Internet (besides pop-ups and viruses and dumb jokes). To make sure you have all the bases covered, you might want to contact the local fire department, since I have not discussed all the ins and outs of fireescaping.

You must realize, too, that fire is a natural occurrence in the county. In fact, fire can promote growth by getting rid of dry, brittle wood (many natives stump-sprout after a fire). By clearing out some shrubs, fires encourage sprouting of various wild annuals and perennials. So fire in these parts is a natural thing. As you start your brush-clearing activity, perhaps you can think of it as imitating the effects of a real fire, enabling you to add some fire-retardant yet intensely wildlife-nourishing greenery. That's what I did.

And what do you know—the day after the fire, the animals started coming back.

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

GET A LATH HOUSE

BY A.D. ROBINSON

A.D. Robinson had the inspiration for having an organization to help the citizens of San Diego to beautify their city. He was one of the founders of the San Diego Floral Association in 1907 and the first president. By 1909, discovering the need for printed information, he helped found California Garden magazine. Until WWII this publication and flower shows, lectures, and classes by SDSA greatly influenced the planting of San Diego and the surrounding towns.

Mr. Robinson popularized the lath house in 1910 when he wrote an article about lath houses. A month later, because of public interest, he gave instructions for making one. In following issues he wrote articles on care of lath house plants. Today we still have the beautiful lath house in Balboa Park built during this period. Visit and you will experience what he describes in his articles. Today we have shade houses covered with shade cloth, but they cannot equal the ambience of a real lath house.

BSJ

February 1910, page 9

It is a matter for regret and astonishment that in San Diego the lath house is not an adjunct to the garden, is the exception, not the rule.

The lath house is efficient, cheap and adaptable, can cover acres, or be squeezed into the backyard of a city lot, can raise the salad and fern for the table, or be a windbreak and shade for the baby, and can be so arranged as to make a charming, afternoon tea resort. Let us consider it a little seriously in detail. A fair-sized lath house for the ordinary city garden need not cost to exceed \$20. The flat, low shape of the nursery genus is not arbitrary, there is no reason why a circular one of a summer-house pattern, should not be equally effective for growing plants. In fact, the most elaborate example in the state is on H.E. Huntington's place in San Gabriel, and is circular with a dome like the Point Loma Homestead. Therefore, neither cost nor inadaptability in form is worth considering as a drawback.

What are the advantages? In it will grow almost any kind of fern to perfection, including the delicate maiden hairs. Begonias delight in its shelter. Violets make immense blooms and stems, and greatly prolong their blooming season therein. Lettuce can be raised in summer, cuttings rooted, and up the sides and pillars the more delicate vines will gladly climb. However, it is as an outdoor salon, the lath house scores most heavily. With sun and wind tempered to bare heads and light apparel, the hostess can dispense tea and cake surrounded in the delicate green tracery of fern and metallic shield-like leaves of the Rex Begonias, while the tree frogs punctuate the gossip about airships or gores and gussets, and more serious discussions of the Talent Workers and the Tree Planters. A lath house of a few years' standing accumulates that soothing atmosphere of

the woods, that faint earthy smell peculiar to ferns and things that love the forest shades. The growing things in it take on an indigenous charm. Tiny little seedlings sprout in odd places. Some dainty bird, likely wren, with its natty brown dress and tilted tail, will make of it a happy hunting ground, scurrying round from plant to plant with a merry chirp, that plainly says: "Well, fellows! Here we are again."

There is nothing in the garden that can and will make the return in pure, unadulterated restful joy that the lath house will, and San Diegans should wake up to the fact.

March 1910, page 4

In building use redwood posts, as pine rots very quickly under moist condition pertaining to a lath house. Have a height of at least ten feet, as this will allow space to walk under vines trained inside overhead. Put laths one lath apart, except on the side in the direction of the prevailing winds, where they may be much closer, or even a solid wall is indicated for much exposed situations. On the east side if the protection runs only half the height, it will help the appearance and the supply of light. The laths overhead should run north and south, so as to keep the shade moving over the whole surface alternately. Palm leaves make a good substitute for a roof and can be made to look much better.

In planning allow good space for walks—the charm of the lath house is half lost if you can't meander therein.

Get as much leaf mold into the soil as you can get hold of and put hydrants in handy places so as to avoid injury to plants by the movement of the hose. Cement walks are strongly recommended as easy to keep clean and dry.

SOAKING UP GOOD WATER-USE BEHAVIORS

Maintaining a Healthy, Vibrant Landscape Can Be Water-Wise

BY LUIS GENEROSO

WE HAVE ALL SEEN IT. Those awful yellow — sometimes brown — patches on the lawn indicating the area isn't getting enough water. Even worse is the lawn that is lush and green, but a swamp underneath. Finding the appropriate amount and way to water lawns and landscaping can sometimes be an effort in trial and error. Conserving water and maintaining a healthy landscape becomes a challenge during the summer months, but developing a water-efficient irrigation system and schedule now will make your lawn and landscaping much easier to maintain year-round.

There are many factors in creating a water-efficient irrigation schedule that suits the needs of the landscape. Getting familiar with the landscape and irrigation system not only helps diagnose potential problems, but it helps to foster good water-use behaviors.

"Plants need care," said Dan Carney, Landscape Architect for the City of San Diego's Water Department. "Healthy landscaping is about understanding the needs of your plants."

Soil type is one of the most important aspects of the landscape governing how much water should be used. Different types of soils have different characteristics. For instance sandy soils — more common in coastal areas — easily absorb large amounts of water and drain water quickly. Loam, a mixture of sand, organic material, and clay absorbs water less quickly than sand, but water is retained in the root zone longer. Clay is dense and does not absorb water quickly, which means that short and repeated watering is needed to keep the root zone well watered. Water use is dictated by the plant and the application of that water is based on the ability of the soil to absorb.

Frequent, light watering encourages shallow root growth that can result in an unstable and unhealthy plant that is less drought resistant and more prone to damage during winter months. Such shallow watering only settles dust and promotes weed growth; it does not penetrate deep into the roots where water is needed. On the other hand, overwatering can damage the root system by cutting off the oxygen supply in the soil and drowning aerobic organisms that maintain a soil texture suitable for plant growth. Instead, try watering deeply fewer days a week to help encourage and strengthen deeper root growth that enables the plant to survive in dry conditions.

The most efficient way to water landscaping properly is to create irrigation zones. To do this, design the irrigation system based upon the application rate of the fixture and the water needs of the landscape. For example, spray sprinklers and drip systems have different water pressures and coverage areas, and each is best suited to two different types of landscaping. By grouping irrigation fixtures appropriate to the plants' water needs, overwatering and underwatering can be minimized.

Irrigation scheduling also affects the development of good outdoor water-use behaviors. Watering early in the morning or after the sun sets reduces evaporation. It also decreases fungus problems and reduces the sun's magnification on leaves, thus reducing the occurrence of leafburn. Irrigate only if needed; if the blades of the grass easily bounce back after being stepped on, there is no need to irrigate. For more information on properly irrigating your landscaping, visit the Landscape Watering Calculator at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation. The calculator allows users to estimate the correct amount of water to apply to the landscape by creating a customized watering schedule.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619-515-3500.

Luis Generoso is Water Resources Manager, City of San Diego.

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JANE MINSHALL: A SAN DIEGO FIRST®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

IT IS NOT EASY to write an objective article about someone who is a close friend and who also inspires a strong case of heroine-worship. There is a strong tendency to gild the lily so to speak, with scoops of superlatives and praises galore.

Journalists, however, must try to remain at least somewhat unbiased or impersonal (always difficult for me), so here are just the facts: If you've ever noticed the fascinating foliage and plant ambiance on the campus of Mesa College and over 115 of our city schools, you have Jane Minshall to thank.

Jane (I can't bring myself to write "Minshall"—it makes me sound phony to myself) worked for over twenty-eight years to bring a sense of nature, its beauty and its peace, to our school campuses.

She is San Diego's first woman landscape architect. And that's a fact.



Leucodendron argenteum (silver tree)

Photograph by Jane Minshall

A SEED PLANTED BY HER MOM

Jane said, "I decided I would be a landscape architect when I was twelve." When Jane was nine, a neighbor gave her some snappy-looking snapdragons with white throats and pink petals. The plants, and Jane, grew with wild enthusiasm. One day in the garden, Jane

told her mother she wanted a career having to do with plants, and her mother suggested, "Have you thought about becoming a landscape architect?"

Jane said that years later her mother told her, "I don't know how I thought of that."

AND PARTLY NOURISHED BY THE FLORAL ASSOCIATION

After receiving a degree in Landscape Architecture from U.C. Berkeley, Jane met Roland Hoyt, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*. He encouraged her to join Floral. ("I'm sure I am the longest-term living member by far," Jane told me.) In the fall of 1946, Hoyt informed Jane that the San Diego city school system was planning to hire a landscape architect. "It was thanks to him that I had my profession with the schools," she said.

So for the next twenty-eight years or so, she was busy creating oases of green, bits of natural respite from the mazes of hardscape and buildings chockablock with educational paraphernalia.

Then she retired, but not really.

WITH BLOSSOMS IN LAKESIDE

Just one look at Jane's two-acre property in Lakeside tells you how she feels about growing things: The plant variety seems endless, with a special emphasis on natives and South African species. Also, small containers of water are scattered about to quench the thirst of the many small creatures, winged and otherwise, who recognize a good place to hang out when they see one.

As Jane and I hobnobbed with the other creatures on her place, I asked her to name some favorite plants. Here are eight of them:

Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) - Jane grew up with this magnificent evergreen marvel.

Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) - This tree bestows its shade and ruddy fall beauty near her patio.

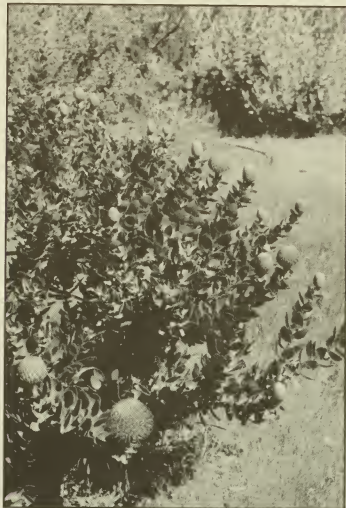
Silver tree (*Leucodendron argenteum*) - Not easy to grow in San Diego, this South African tree has leaves of silver that glisten happily on Jane's property. It reminds her of her travels in Africa, where children use the leaves as bookmarks.

Pincushion (*Leucospermum cordifolium*) - Spectacular, long-blooming flowers adorn this showy evergreen shrub.

Red bauhinia (*Bauhinia galpinii*) - This is a

sprawling shrub with flamboyant red flowers.

Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) - A California native and sentimental favorite, it sports soft gray-green leaves with the scent of the wild west, and purple flowers attractive to hummingbirds.



Leucospermum cordifolium (pincushion)
Photograph by the author

Dwarf strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo* 'Elfin King') - This evergreen shrub has year-round beauty. The tiny urn-shaped flowers become colorful red and yellow fruits; the shreddy bark is a rich reddish brown.

Raphiolepis indica 'Springtime' - Jane considers this pink flowered evergreen shrub the workhorse of the city schools; it is vigorous and dependable. She used it also at Mesa College, along with dozens of other types of plants. Jane remembers: "In preparation for a talk regarding my career, I visited Mesa College twenty-five years after I had designed the planting, and as I saw it I felt quite emotionally overcome—my eyes filled with tears—because there it was, just as I had envisioned it twenty-five years before in my mind."

She is still working with the things she treasures: "I'm a San Diego native, and remember a time when Mission Valley was my playground—a time when there were many wildflowers, which gave me a lifelong admiration for native plants, a love of wild flowers and wild lands." There you have it in a nutshell: An exceptional person with a love of plants, nature, and of life itself. As I said earlier, just the facts. □

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30pm

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds
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Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display.
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Upcoming Events & Meetings:

May 12: Gardening Out Front

Bob Smaus, author of *52 Weeks in a California Garden*, will explain how and why he tore out his front lawn. There are now California natives and other unthirsty plants, roses, raised beds for vegetables, fragrant vines and a wealth of bulbs. Books will be sold at a discount to members.

June 17 – SDHS Night at the Fair

For members and guests – details in May SDHS newsletter.

Info: www.sdhortsoc.org
or (858) 756-2579



SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$10.00 (single membership) or \$12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



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June 17
October 21

Casa del Prado room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June

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Horticulture Dept 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL

Chr: Muriel Baze 858-756-3443

1st Wed - 10:30 am

Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May—North County Fair,

Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY

Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-464-0544

1st Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

Feb, Mar, Apr, Sep, Oct, Nov

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1st Fri - 10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARD GARDENERS

Pres: Clara Garner 858-592-9533

3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Peggy Burley 619-479-9838

E-mail: jburley@hotmail.com

Cell: 619-246-4759

2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,

Sweetwater Road

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Reynolds 619-435-0949

4th Monday - 9:30 am, Winn Room,

Coronado Public Library

CARLSBAD NEWCOMERS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Patricia Smutz 760-931-2615

2nd Wed - Call for meeting information

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Marion Beecroft 619-479-7265

3rd Thu - 12:00 pm, Norman Park

Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Pres: Sondi Arndt 619-437-0199

CROWN GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Helen Behner 619-435-5943

4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Roger Ramey 760-751-1906

E-mail: rameyrlr@netimes.net

2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sue Havenor 760-743-7037

3rd Fri - 12:30 pm, Escondido Joslyn Center

Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jerri Patchett 760-723-8635

E-mail: jfpatchett@aol.com

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, FPUD Bldg on Mission Rd

Last Thu - 9:30 am, Fallbrook Presbyterian

Church on Stage Coach

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB

Chrm: Judy Courtemanche 858-459-6098

2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Carolyn Doggett 858-488-5853

E-mail: cmdoggett8@cs.com

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219

4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo

Library (new), 2nd floor

LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Gayle Stephenson 619-224-9601

3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB

Pres: Edie Sahlin 760-433-9664

3rd Sat - 12:45 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Marien Kissling 619-542-0880

4th Wed - 6:30 pm

Oct thru Mar - Methodist Church at Lark and

Fort Stockton

Apr thru Sep - Mission Hills Nursery

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sandra Dysart 858-454-3745

2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Masonic Hall

1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Nancy Clever 760-746-3310

2nd Wed - 9:00 am, Lake Poway Pavilion

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Donna Ferrier 858-756-1554

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Dorothy Driscoll 619-463-6700

4th Tue - 9:30 am, Homes of Members

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Donna Golich 858-755-4986

4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Sandy McCreight 858-454-7467

4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian

Church, LJ

CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Rosella Pelzer 760-724-7656
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046

KEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119

Pres: Mrs. Rumie Rice 760-729-1554

4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

LA JOLLA CHAPTER

858-672-7850

2nd Tues - 10:00 am, La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 619-276-4667

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Director: Ronald Searfoss 858-459-5961

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198

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CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Barbara Conrad 858-759-6746

4th Mon - 10:00 am, Vista Library,

700 Eucalyptus Avenue

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ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294

2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919

2nd Sun - 1:30 pm, except May & Aug

Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535

Last Sat - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

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Pres: Lit Phan

1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)

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before meeting

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Pres: David Ellsworth 619-286-5636

2nd Tue - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Tom Knapik

2nd Sat - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

EXCEPT Nov & Dec

NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422

4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building

Quail Gardens

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT

SOCIETY

4th Sat - 12:15 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND

SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Pam Badger 619-589-1223

2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593

E-mail: djsj21643@aol.com

4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Contact: Kathy Payne 760-789-5790

1st Sat - 10:00 am, Sep thru May

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SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

Pres: Irene Sias 619-491-9495

Website: www.epiphyllum.com

2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN

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Pres: Robin Halley 858-454-2234

3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

Chair: David Silverstein 619-523-8565

4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Thu

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SHADE PLANT SOCIETY

Pres: Richard Hubbell 619-443-3706

2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Cynthia Lohry 619-469-8936

2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HERB

THE HERB CLUB

Pres: Judy Dunning 619-579-0222

2nd Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location

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SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Ken Pierson 760-765-3434

E-mail: ken112@abac.com

2nd Sun - 1:00 pm

Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188

1st Thu - 7:30 pm -

Canoga Park Women's Club,

7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

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SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219

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Library (new), 2nd floor

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY

A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF

AMERICA, INC.

Pres: Warren Stehle 760-729-0467

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Gary Pierwola 619-426-9108

E-mail: keikiman@aol.com

1st Tues - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mary McMahon 619-422-4017

4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

EXCEPT Aug & Dec

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY

Pres: Ken Ames 619-443-4795

4th Sun - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Feb thru Oct

Casa del Prado, Room 104

Information: Ken Ames 858-454-5475

E-mail: kenaplumeria@aol.com

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Roger English 619-582-3794

1st Sun - 2:00 pm, except Jul & Aug

Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Steve Berry 619-235-0004

3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

EXCEPT Jan & Feb - 4th Mon

No meetings Jul & Aug

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES

Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE

FAX: 619-223-8733

E-mail: adoglover1@juno.com

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN

SOCIETY

President: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704

3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct

Website: ponds.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden

E-mail: dc@pondplants.com

Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

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Deadline for Jul-Aug issue: May 15, 2003

Are you aware that each affiliate group is

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computer, please use a font that does not

resemble typewriting.



A GOOD-LOOKING IMMIGRANT ANNUAL

BY BETTY NEWTON

I DROVE THROUGH AN unfamiliar neighborhood taking a shortcut home from class.

Christmas was fast approaching. Glancing to the left out of the car window, I saw an impressive group of tall red flowers next to a simple white frame house. I immediately dubbed them "Christmas rose" even though

and water than those that were pointed out near the fence. Planting in June, even late June, may give the same rewarding late bloom.


Thank you, Mr. Bahena. □



they were obviously not roses and I did not know what I was seeing. But it was clear that here were striking, strong-stalked flowers in winter—most larger than an enlarged fat fist, displayed on tall stems. I tried to remember a cross street so that I could come back and, maybe, take a picture. I know I am not the only gardener intrigued by new plants.

When I did get back, camera in hand, the family had cause to be non-plused. The children scampered; I was an unannounced intruder, but the adult was most courteous. Gonzalo Bahena and his son, Victor, posed for me looking at the flowers. When I couldn't quite understand what he was telling me, Gonzalo wrote out the basic information very neatly. He pointed out that some of the flowers were setting seeds and gave me some. If you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to me at 386 Tyrone Street, El Cajon CA 92020, I'll send you a few.

Where Bahenas's mother raises these flowers in Guerrero, Mexico, he says they are called *tersio pelo*, which might translate to "like velvet hair." They are a form of *Celosia*, related to cockscomb (and look strongly related to easy-to-grow amaranth). The tops of the stems are fasciated, or grown together, in a thickened way. The flower, an annual, is usually planted to bloom in heat, but here, the best ones in the yard were on the north side of the house and obviously getting more food



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CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK

9:30AM to 2:00PM

Bring a lunch, coffee provided

Register with San Diego Floral Association office,
619/232-5762, Call MARIE WALSH 619/298-5182
for more information.

PLEASE PREREGISTER!

UNIQUE BASKETRY CLASS

Tuesday, 6 May 2003

Instructor: Alice Retes

Materials supplied, bring bucket, hand towel, and
clippers.

FEE: \$20.00 members, \$25.00 nonmembers.

**BIRDHOUSE - FEEDER, OR JUST DECORATE
A GOURD**

Tuesday 13 May 2003

Prize-winning instructor from Valley Center will teach
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decorate a gourd.

Instructor: Jewel Nagel

FEE: \$30, including gourd and all supplies. Bring water
cup and inexpensive water color brushes.

BIG NATURAL BASKET FROM NATURE

Tuesday, 20 May 2003

Instructor: Martha Rosenberg with Kathy Walsh

All supplies included. Bring clippers, towel, and bucket.

FEE: \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers

CLASSES WANTED

DATE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

Make check payable to San Diego Floral Association.

SEND TO: San Diego Floral Assoc., 1650 El Prado, #105,
San Diego CA 92101-1622

NAME _____

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ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

When pruning, save wisteria, grape, willow, and
California bay laurel trimmings for Marie Walsh and
basket classes.

Marie will pick up, telephone 619-298-5182.



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San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado,
San Diego, CA 92101-1622 [in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park]

*Bonita Valley Garden Club Tour
Ten Beautiful Gardens In And Around Bonita
Wednesday, May 21, 2003
10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Tickets \$20 With Lunch - \$15 Tour Only
Reservations Required For Lunch
Contact Marge Greer @ 619-479-7177
Or Dee Vawter @ 619-479-7687*

To: You
From: San Diego Geranium Society
Re: Upcoming Meetings & Bus Trips

The San Diego Geranium Society invites you to join us at our meetings in Room # 101 of Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. FREE Admission - Everyone welcome!

May 13, 2003 @ 7:30 PM
Speaker: George Plalsted
Topic: Fertilizer

What to use to get the results you want from your plants.

June 10, 2003 @ 7:30 PM
Speaker: Cynthia Lohry
Topic: Good Scents

All about scented pelargoniums including their uses and tips on cultivation and propagation.

Call 619-469-8936 for more info about SDGS, or if you want to join us on our bus trip to Descanso Gardens on May 10 for \$15 or to South Coast Botanical Gardens on June 21 for \$20.

Don't miss our show and sale on May 17 & 18!

SHARE YOUR TALENTS ENTER THE FAIR BY LUCY WARREN

We've all enjoyed the beautiful landscape garden displays at the Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower and Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair. But there is much, much more to the Flower and Garden show. To keep it growing, we welcome you to become a part of it all! A black thumb, you say?!—no problem, there are entry categories for many talents.

Why not create a unique, functional, or decorative birdhouse? These wonderful garden accessories delight fairgoers every year.

Or, you can enter one or more of the floral design competitions that are ongoing throughout the Fair. Don't be intimidated, there are separate competitions for amateur designers and professionals. There are even special competitions for miniature designs.

If you love to grow cut flowers, there are many opportunities to enter your specimen blooms. Roses, dahlias, lilies, orchids! New contests every few days and many categories to enter including size, form, and fragrance.

Are specimen plants your thing? There are contests for bonsai, hanging plants, and orchid specimen plants.

Create a small patio garden (10' by 10') or a window box.

There are cash prizes for all these divisions, but one of the greatest rewards of all is to share your interest and talent with thousands of appreciative fairgoers.

To get an exhibitors handbook and learn more about these competitions, you can call 858-792-4283, or conserve paper by getting information online at www.sdfair.com. You'll find it under exhibits, Flower and Garden Show.

**CHECK IT OUT NOW BECAUSE ENTRY
DEADLINE IS MAY 2nd!**

Antonelli Brothers

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Santa Cruz, California 95062
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